

Copyright, 1915, by American Press Association. (Continued.) "Is this 182 River?" came the query.

"Yes," replied the financier's widow,

A further request to be allowed to

"Who are you?" asked the commu-

"I'm his wife," was Mrs. Trask's an-

band's secretary, Stanley Glover, came

"I thought I heard the telephone

Stanley Glover, Secretary to Gerald

woman, as usual," who had sought to

The secretary seated himself at his

employer's desk and appeared to de-

Suspecting that Glover knew some

thing about the person, Mrs. Trask

he stated that he knew absolutely

Mrs. Trask became somewhat con-

"No, I suppose my husband doesn't

"You must excuse me. You know

"Yes, of course. I don't ordinarily

discuss these things, but even my en-

durance has its limits. I've put up

with things for fifteen years now. Oh,

what a fool I am to stand for it?"
"My dear Mrs. Trask"—protested the

"Yes, forgive me. It was wrong of

me to talk about it to you. Sometimes

I lose patience. Well, we won't say

anything more about it. Is Mr. Trask

He's coming on the 9:10 from Long

Branch. It's half past 9 now. He

"I can't imagine what he's doing

"He might have waited until next

week," Mrs. Trask said. "We'll be

there all summer. By the way, I'd

"I'll do it at once. Where are the

"In the safe," Mrs. Trask informed

It was just as Mrs. Trask had in

formed Glover that she would get the

combination of the safe from her hus

band and give it to him that the soun

of familiar footsteps was heard in the

vestibule, a key was heard to serap

and turn in the lock of the cumbe

some front door and in strode Gern

The financier's eyes sparkled anima

edly. His step and bearing were buo;

health and energy and life and breat!

ed forth the atmosphere of the enjo.

ment of them all as he walked forward

to greet his wife.

He seemed the embodiment

should have been here by this time."

"Golfing and fishing, I suppose."

"Yes; he telephoned this morning.

take his secretary into his confidence

Trask.

communicate with her husband.

sire to avoid the woman's gaze.

temptuous in her attitude.

Glover protested.

my position, Mrs. Trask,"

coming home tonight?"

down there these two days."

books?" was Glover's reply.

and the strange woman rang off.

into the library rather hurriedly.

that she had answered the call.

"When will he be home?"

"I don't know."

There was a pause

nicant.

She dried her nervously moist hands who stated to the court that she had with her handkershief. She tried to trembled visibly at the sound of the speak, but words would not come forth from the lips that moved The woman' of steel nave who had excited admiration and comment at the opening of talk to Mr. Trask was met by the rethe tria! now seemed verging on trans sponse that he was not in. formation to a obysical wreck with palsied tongua.

'I will repeat the question," began the prosecutor, hoping to relieve the etrale of the deep silence prevailing throughout the woman's ordeal.

But no. By a tremendous effort she pulled herself together, looked straight into the attorney's eyes and started, though in broken tones at the beginning, to tell what she knew of and had seen in the moments of the consummation of the crime that had shocked a continent.

"You need not repeat that-that question," she quickly said. "I-I will ring," he explained. answer it fully. On the night in question I entered the library of my home. and and the telephone bell was-was

Again she paused. Her cheeks, her hands and her forehead twitched nervously as sometimes they do in an epileptic attack. She groped as though blindly for a bottle of smelling salts which she carried in a gold mesh bag. The once strong thread of mental reserve and physical power had worn

The woman fell back in the witness chair in a swoon as she gasped feebly, Water, water," and the court attendants jumped to her aid.

too thin to stand the strain. It snap-

After all, there was no just cause to conder at the unexpected collapse of Joan Trask on the witness stand. Few people there are who could have endured what sie had endured without emerging from the test-if they came out of it at all-without either health. of mind virally impaired. Years of se and of sacrificing for another things most dear to a true woman's heart had but illy prepared her to face the merciless prosecutor of a notorious murder trial, even though the silent eletim whose blood demanded vengeance had been the man she had loved

What was it about that telephone call on the night of the slaying of Gerald Trask which, when on the stand the first day of the trial, caused her to faint at its mention?

What was there about that talk over the wire that broke down her reserve self contained demeanor and determined poise when questioned about it by the prosecutor, when even polgnant reminders of her husband's death had failed to materially move her? What was the mystery?

Undoubtedly the prosecutor knew through her statements before the trial began and by her testimony at the coroner's inquest and in the grand

The public, aroused to a still higher pitch of excitement over the case awaited impatiently the resumption of Mrs. Trask's testimony. The trial postponed for a day owing to her spec tacular breakdown on the witness stand, was continued at 10:30 a. m., a day later, with Joan Trask again an pearing in the role of central figure Her eyes were clear; her voice was steady. She had conquered the weal es that had overpowered her. Sh had ressived to go through to the en with the part she had been called or

by the authorities to fill. And then the public began to lear as much of the inner details of th tragedy as the district attorney's offiitself knew. The woman bared he neart to a gaping, thoughtless mult tude that fed its morbid mind on he sorrow with the greed of a hydr headed vampire. A heyday for the the case of the people versus Robe Strickland, and they were not to b robbed of any choice morsel of the prey. No, indeed!

Now let us consider just what man ner of a story it was that Joan Tray told in those soul trying hours during which she occupied the witness cha. in Justice Dinsmore's tribungl. -

She had heard the telephone bell is her husband's library ring as she en tered the house on her return from dinner given by a friend in honor o like you to go over my tradesmen's acthe wife of one of the members of a counts for me before we leave the foreign embassy who had been visiting in the city. Knowing her husband to be out for the evening, she entered the Hhrary and answered the call,

The instrument was affixed to an ornate mahogany desk of modern design standing at the left of the room, a short space in front of an alcove and a few feet distant from a safe in which Trask kept valuable papers, some family heirlooms and from time to time bundles of stocks and bonds and sums of money. He frequently used large amounts of cash in his transactions at home, she restified.

woman's voice answered when Mrs. Trask asked what was wanted, a voice that Mrs. Trask was certain that she had heard before. At any rate, she had a faint suspicion as to who was the owner of the voice-nothing defi-

Yet it was the night of June 24, 1915. The hour was that between 9 and 10. Gerald Trask might have borne himself differently had he known what the wheel of events was whirling toward him at that hour, at that very moment. But he did not know-he did not

ped forward.

On the part of the private secretary was seen the curious mixture of obse quiousness which marks the employee who is at once the servant and the confidant of his employer. There was evident perturbation in his manner, as that of one who was oppressed perhaps by a secret of his own. But there was plainly apparent, in addition, the great desire to please. Glover stood in parlous case. With-

out willing it he had been forced to witness the outbreak of a wife against her husband, and that husband the man on whom his own prosperity depended. Not knowing what might be future developments in the relations between Mr. and Mrs. Trask he must perforge maintain a discreet distance between the two. "Good evening, Mr. Trask," was his greeting to the man who entered. But

ments before her dissatisfaction with her husband's conduct did not reply to his "Hello!" Her silence was noticeable. Turning to her, Trask, with a mixture of cyn-

the wife who had voiced but a few mo

icism and contempt, asked: "Well, what's wrong with you again?"

The disdainful "again," implying that the man had in mind their long course of disagreement, stung the woman to the quick. It looked as though there would be a stormy scene, and Glover took hold of the edge of the desk with both hands as if to brace himself against the gathering storm.

"Oh, very well. Goodby," came next, With an effort Mrs. Trask controlled Mrs. Trask turned away from the herself, and she turned away with a brief "Nothing." telephone, deeply distressed, almost distraught. As she did so her hus-

"Oh, is that all?" replied Trask, and then Stanley Glover, again the suave, cool, collected private secretary, his tension relaxed, stepped into the breach.

His manner impressed Mrs. Trask as side of Trask and taking his hat and being marked by extreme anxiety and overcoat. He deposited them on a especially so when she informed him chair. Replying to his urgent questioning. "Anything new, Glover?" asked Mrs. Trask told him that it was "A

"No, sir," replied Glover, Throughout the scene the telephone



The Telephone Call For "the Other Woman.'

surging to and fro in the mind of Mrs Trask. Now she turned again to her pressed him with questions, but to all husband, and, looking directly at him, she said;

"A woman called you up." "Oh, that's it! Who was it?" Perhaps with the memory of similar scenes in mind the wife answered:

"I suppose you know well enough." to that extent, although he doesn't "If I knew I wouldn't ask you. Who make any great attempt to keep things was it?" secret. He hasn't even a sense of "I don't know. You don't suppos

she'd tell me her name, do you?" "Did she say she'd call again?" Again came the "I don't know" of the wife.

CHAPTER IV.

"Who Is This Woman?" ND then Stanley Glover, scenting the approach of the storm. again interposed hastily: "Do you mind opening the safe, Mr. Trask? I want to get Mrs

Trask's account books." With an "All right" Trask began feeling in his pockets. He explored one after another without result "What did I do with that card?" he said. "I had a card with the combina tion written on it. That's a funny thing. Where the devil did I put it?" "Maybe it's in another suit," suggest

ed Mrs. Trask, while Glover asked: "When did you have it last?" To the secretary Trask replied: "Yesterday morning before I left.

opened the safe to get my check book." Again from Mrs, Trask: "Perhaps you left it down at Long Branch."

The mention of the watering place seemed to irritate the financier. There were associations with its name, per haps, which made the mention by hi wife doubly disagreeable. On the lip of others "Long Branch" was merel a name on a map, a pleasant place wherein to while away a holiday There was something in "Long Branch" from her which made him turn on her and say savagely, with no attempt to conceal his irritation:

"That's ridiculous! Why should I leave the combination to the safe at Long Branch?"

(To Be Continued.) XMAS ROPING AND WREATHS OF LAUREE JOHN RECK & SON.

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